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Meyer

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[54] **PRINTED MATERIAL SUPPORT HOLDER**

[75] Inventor: **Stephen T. Meyer**, Indianapolis, Ind.

[73] Assignee: **Deflecto Corporation**, Indianapolis, Ind.

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[51] **Int. Cl.**[5] **A47F 5/00**

[52] **U.S. Cl.** **248/316.7**; 24/67.11; 24/67.9; 24/547; 248/231.8; 248/305; 248/903

[58] **Field of Search** ..... 248/316.7, 74.2, 231.8, 248/305, 312.1, 903; 24/67 R, 67.3, 67.9, 67.11, 546, 547, DIG. 8, DIG. 9

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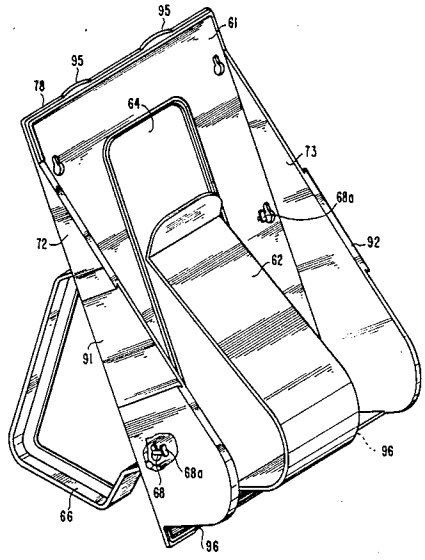
Primary Examiner—Ramon O. Ramirez

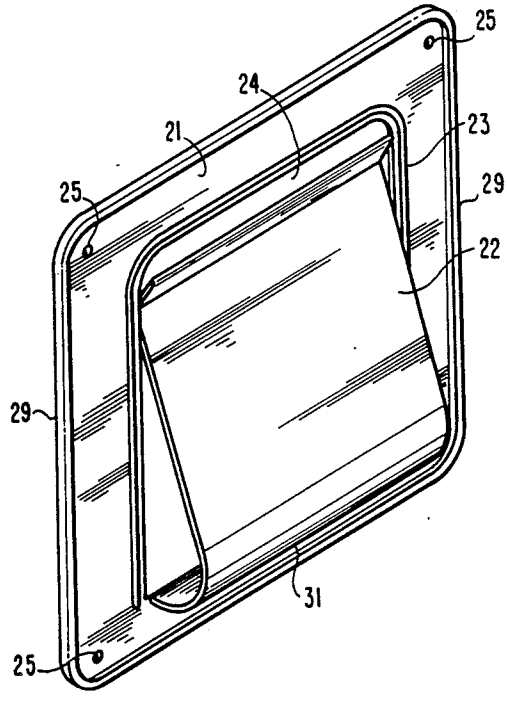
Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Woodard, Emhardt, Naughton Moriarty & McNett

[57] **ABSTRACT**

A molded plastic holder for printed material includes a substantially flat support panel which is designed to be mounted to any vertical surface. Molded as part of and integrally joined to the support panel along a lower edge is a curved clip which curves outwardly at its base so as to provide a clearance space to receive the material and then extends inwardly in order to create a pressure point which presses against any material placed in the holder in order to retain the material securely in place. The integrally molded clip has an inherent spring tension which allows it to be easily pulled forward for the insertion of material into the holder and to spring back to apply the desired holding force. Although the majority of support for the articles in the holder is provided by that material simply resting against the lower inside surface of the clip at its point of connection to the support panel, the pressure added by the clip helps to retain the material in position and with certain types of material, the slight pressure added by the clip bends the material slightly such that its outer edges are easily accessible to be grasped by the user when the material is to be withdrawn from the holder.

7 Claims, 4 Drawing Sheets





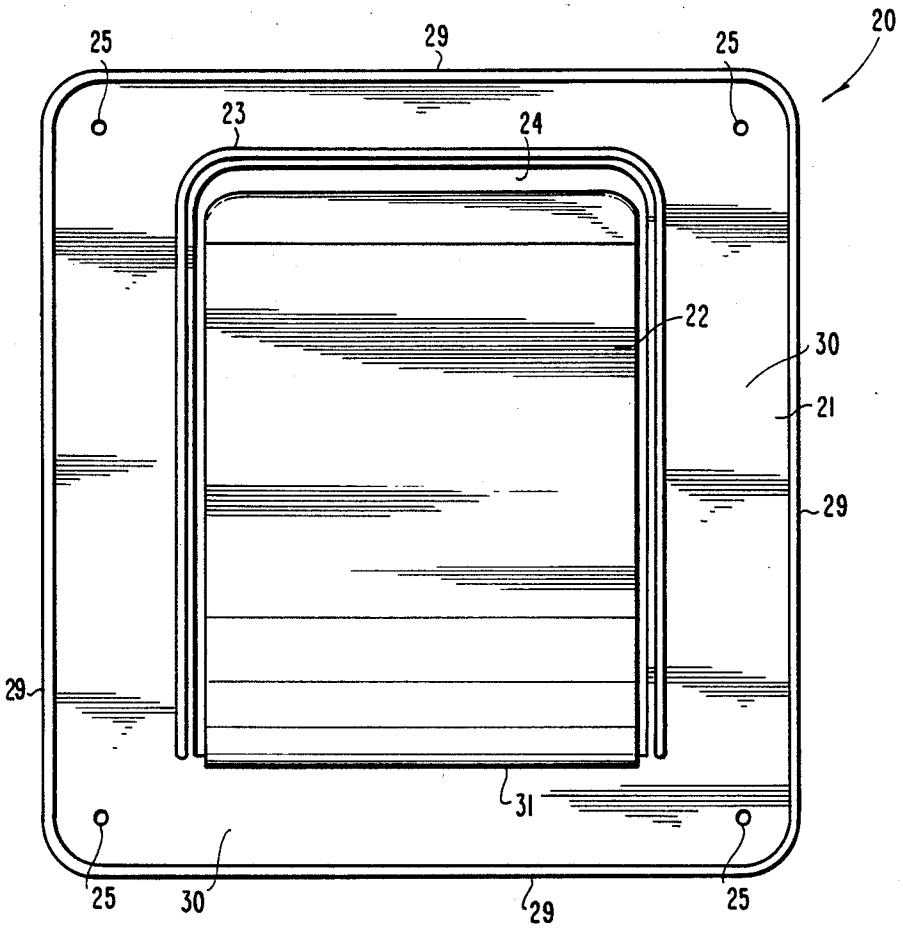


Fig.1

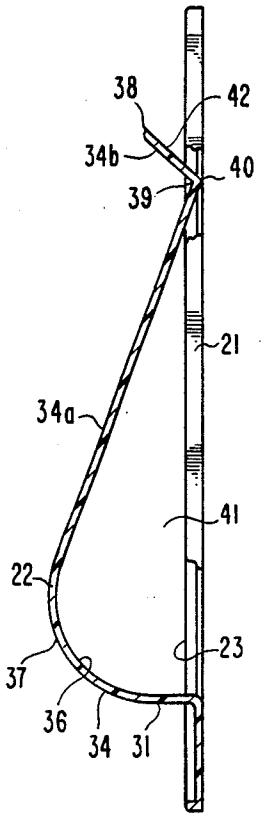


Fig.3

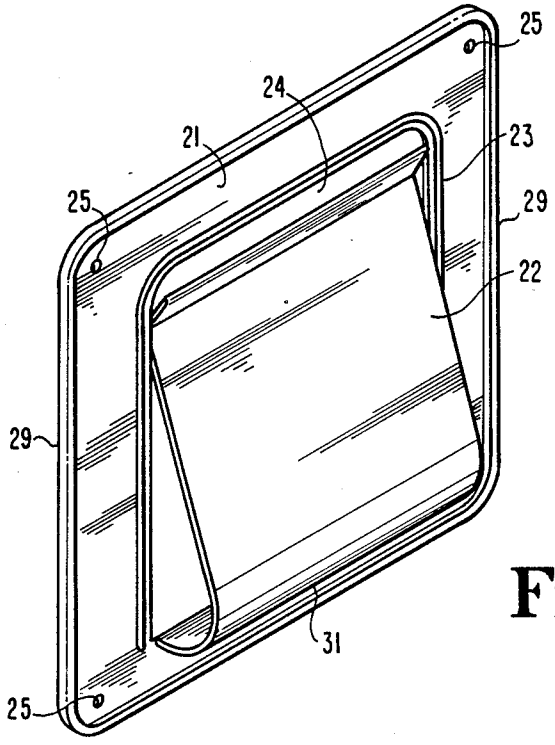


Fig.2

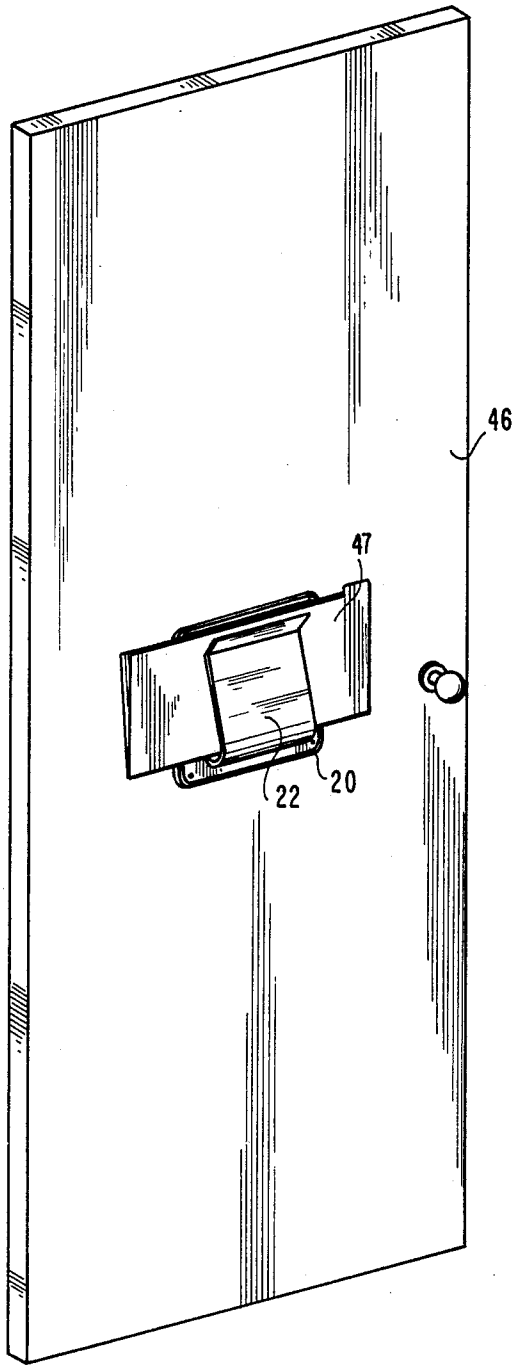


Fig. 4

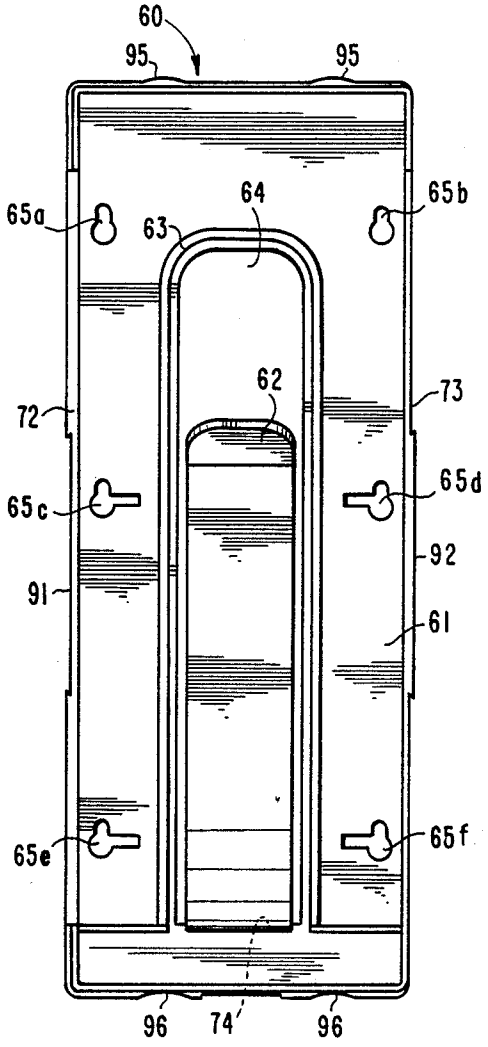


Fig. 5

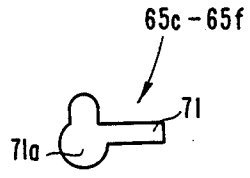


Fig. 5A

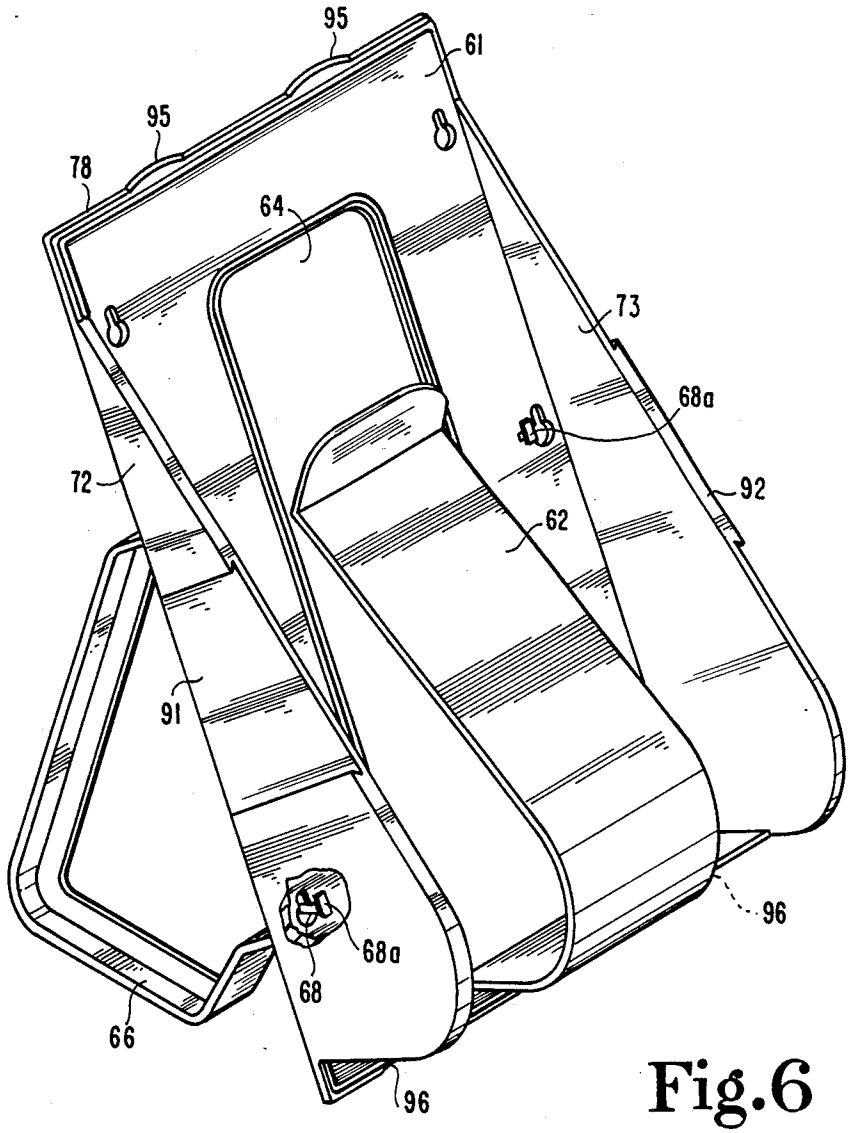


Fig.6

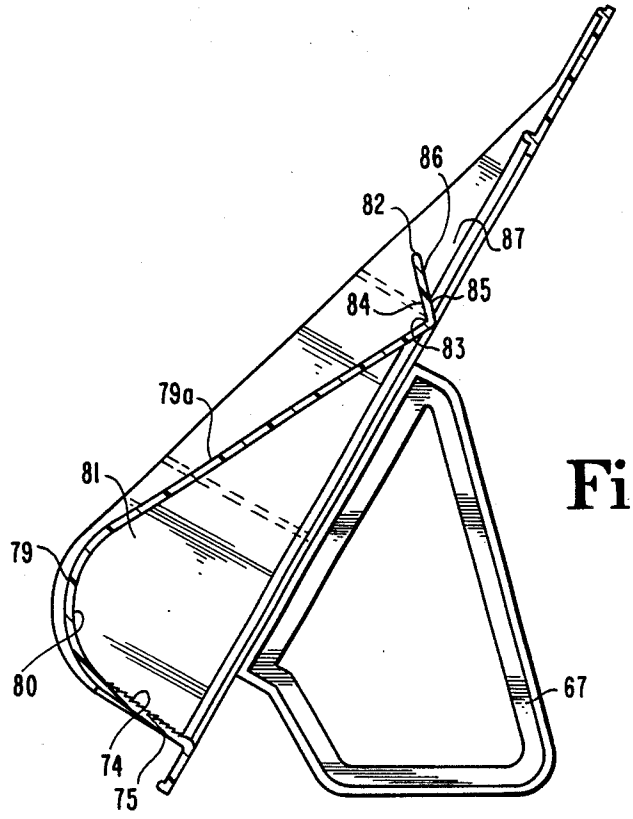


Fig. 7

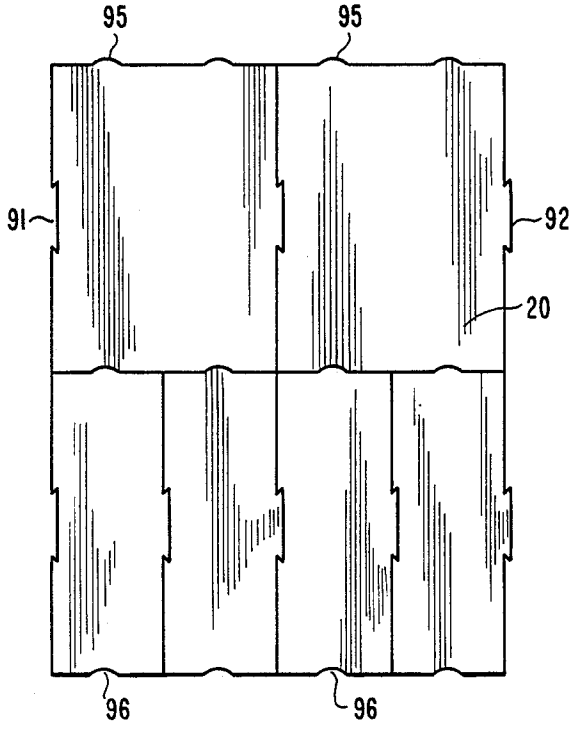


Fig. 8

PRINTED MATERIAL SUPPORT HOLDER

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates in general to support holders for racks which retain printed material, files, charts and the like. More specifically, the present invention relates to such holders and racks which include a retention clip to pin the received material in position.

Over the years a number of holders and receptacles for printed material have been designed. While there is great diversity in the various configurations, these holders and receptacles typically include front and rear panels and enclosing side panels. The bottom surface is typically enclosed either by a separate panel or by angling the front and rear panel such that their lower edges are in contact. The interior cavity which is defined is open and the material which is received is retained without any particular orientation or arrangement. In some designs, a series of receptacles are provided in a stack such that different types of materials can be segregated.

Typical of some of the aforementioned types of holders and receptacles are the magnetic wall pockets, utility wall pockets and desk top pockets offered by Deflecto Corporation of Indianapolis, Indiana. Some of these products are covered by United States Design Patents D286,600 issued Nov. 11, 1986 to Meyer et al. and D289,122 issued Apr. 11, 1987 to Meyer et al.

In each of these patented configurations the holder or receptacle (i.e, pockets) includes sides which control the dimension of the article which can be received. Although the length dimension of the article is typically turned sideways so that the extension above the pocket is minimized, there is complete freedom as to the orientation of the article. Nevertheless, having enclosing side walls does limit the versatility of the pocket due to size restrictions. Consequently, for articles whose size may vary or when the type of article to be retained in the holder is not known, pockets with these confining sides may not be suitable.

One area where such pockets have more limited use due to the nature of the articles and material to be received is in the operating and examination rooms of hospitals and clinics. In these rooms medical files and charts are typically present and there is a need to temporarily retain or store such files and charts during examination of the patient. These medical charts and files are often placed on a counter or table or are left outside of the room. If there is a need to refer to the file or enter data, then not having it in a convenient and readily accessible location contributes to confusion and a lack of organization. Another area of potential use for the present invention is in comPuter rooms where large printouts are moved and handled.

With the holder of the present invention, a front clip is provided to aid in retaining the articles which are placed in the holder. This clip is molded integrally as part of the holder and has a sufficient spring tension to enable various thicknesses of material to be retained. The spring tension of the clip also creates a slight flex or bend in the received articles such that the outer edges are pushed forward and made easier to grasp. The front clip structure of the present invention is extended to another style of holder or receptacle which includes side panels that extend forward from a rear panel.

This other style according to the present invention is specifically designed to receive a large quantity of identical brochures or folder and the holder width is sized to match the width of the printed material which is received in the holder. Consider for example product and informational brochures which are distributed by businesses such as travel agencies, doctor offices, hotels, drug stores, etc. There is a need to display such informational material in an attractive manner and still maintain visibility of what is available. For instance, a drug store may wish to provide a number of health care brochures on a wide range of topics. If the cover of the brochures cannot be seen it is awkward for a person to easily select the brochure of interest.

While a number of holders exist for magazines, catalogs, pamphlets and brochures, they all suffer from various defects in design which severely limit their aesthetic qualities and usefulness. One defect is that these holders do not provide any type of structure to cause the material to stand and remain standing in an upright orientation. If the holder is full, the material in the holder is somewhat supported by its own surrounding mass. However, as the pamphlets and brochures are taken the mass diminishes and the remaining pamphlets and brochures begin to sag and curl. Either the top edge of this material droops over in a forward direction making it difficult to read and identify, or the bottom edge curls up and the top edge drops down becoming more difficult to locate, identify and grasp.

By means of the clip of the present invention, a slight arch is created in the printed material creating a concave curvature extending from the top to the bottom with the curvature running side to side. This arch provides each item with a structural configuration which is self-supporting and this precludes the aforementioned problems of sagging and curling. The side panels of this particular holder style according to the present invention are configured with interlocking means so that several holders can be joined together as an assembled unit.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

A holder for printed material according to one embodiment of the present invention comprises a substantially flat support panel, a curved clip integral with the support panel along one edge and free from the support panel around the remaining periphery of the clip, the clip having an inside surface which defines a receiving cavity with the outer surface of the support panel.

One object of the present invention is to provide an improved holder for printed material.

Related objects and advantages of the present invention will be apparent from the following description.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. **1** is a front elevational view of a holder for printed material according o a tYpical embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. **2** is a perspective view of the FIG. **1** holder.

FIG. **3** is a side elevational view of the FIG. **1** holder.

FIG. **4** is a perspective view of the FIG. **1** holder as mounted on a door and receiving therein printed material.

FIG. **5** is a front elevational view of a printed literature holder according to a typical embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. **5A** is a detail of a mounting hole configuration comprising a portion of the FIG. **5** holder.

FIG. **6** is a perspective view of the FIG. **5** holder.

FIG. 7 is a side elevational view of the FIG. 5 holder.

FIG. 8 is a diagrammatic illustration of several holders according to the style of FIG. 5 joined together in an interlocked assembly.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

For the purposes of promoting an understanding of the principles of the invention, reference will now be made to the embodiment illustrated in the drawings and specific language will be used to describe the same. It will nevertheless be understood that no limitation of the scope of the invention is thereby intended, such alterations and further modifications in the illustrated device, and such further applications of the principles of the invention as illustrated therein being contemplated as would normally occur to one skilled in the art to which the invention relates.

Referring to FIGS. 1 and 2, there is illustrated a chart and file holder **20** which includes a support panel **21**, curved clip **22**, stiffening rib **23**, generally rectangular open area **24** and mounting holes **25**. The support panel is a generally rectangular, substantially flat, integral member whose outer edge **29** is slightly thicker than the center panel portion **30** between edge **29** and rib **23** in order to provide strength and rigidity to the holder. The curved clip is injection molded integral with the panel. In the forming and molding process, the clip **22** is joined along its bottom edge to the remainder of the panel coincident with the lower edge of open area **24** (see FIGS. 2 and 3). The clip **22** is shaped and curved, the contour of which is best illustrated by the side elevational view of FIG. 3.

Rib **23** is spaced very slightly from the edges of open area **24** except for the lower edge of area **24** which is integral and coincident with the attaching edge of clip **22**. Rib **23** does not extend along the lower edge of the open area. Although there are a number of raised features on the front surface of support panel **21**, the rear or back surface is substantially flat thereby enabling the holder to be mounted to any substantially flat surface such a: a wall or door, as is illustrated in FIG. **4**. The four mountie holes **25** are provided exclusively for such mountings, though it is also envisioned that the holder will be mounted using double-sided adhesive tape. A further mounting option is &o apply to the rear surface an adhesive-backed magnetic strip. Once the adhesive side is applied to the rear surface of the holder, the holder is then able to be mounted lo any magnetic-attractive metal surface.

As illustrated in FIG. 3, curved clip **22** is of a substantially uniform thickness and is configured with three sections **34**, **34*a*** and **34*b***. Section **34** curves outwardly and upwardly frOm bottom; edge **31** and is configured with a smoothly curved concave inner surface **36** and convex outer surface **37**. Section **34*a*** is a substantially flat portion extending inwardly and upwardly from section **34** and ending at inside corner **39**. The top section **34*b*** which is substantially flat extends outwardly and upwardly from corner **39** to top edge **38**. Outside corner (edge) **40** provides a pressure point for clip **22** which presses against any article placed in holder **20**. It is the shape of clip **22** which provides both an open cavity **41** to receive files and charts, a lower support surface via surface **36** and a pressure point via edge **40**. The outwardly flared top edge **38** is spaced slightly from support panel **21** and thereby creates a channel **42** which opens upwardly and is the point of initial entry of anY chart or file placed in holder **20**. In the exemplary embodiment, the plane of edge **40** extends slightly into open area **24** and is thus substantially coincident with the plane of the support panel, though this configuration can be varied by the molding process. The farther edge **40** extends toward or into the plane of support panel **21** the greater the spring tension on articles placed in the holder by the clip. The inherent spring tension which is molded into the clip and its attachment to panel **21** provides flexibility and allows edge **40** to pivot outwardly.

As is illustrated in FIG. **4**, holder **20** may be mounted on a door **46** and files placed in the holder. In the illustrated example, the file is somewhat longer than the width of the holder and thus the ends of the file extend beyond both sides of clip **22**. File **47** is arranged laterally for better balance and although the clip **22** is wide, its width is substantially less than the length of the files thus allowing the outer edges of the files to remain accessible and easily grasped in order to remove the file, chart, computer printout or the like from the holder. Clip **22** presses against file **47** causing the outer edges to flex forward for easier grasping.

Referring to FIGS. **5** and **6**, there is illustrated another holder according to the present invention. Holder **60** includes support panel **61**, curved clip **62**, stiffening rib **63**, open area **64** and support holes **65*a*–65*f***. Holes **65*a*–65*f*** are arranged into two groups or patterns. The first group includes the top two holes **65*a*** and **65*b***. These holes are used if the holder **60** is mounted to a flat surface such as a vertical wall or door. If holder **60** is to be used on a table or countertop, then holes **65*c***, **65*d***, **65*e*** and **65*f*** are used to attach snap-on legs **66** and **67** (see FIGS. **6** and **7**). One or more of the holes **65*c*–65*f*** may also be used with holes **65*a*** and **65*b*** when holder is **60** is mounted to a wall or door. Holes **65*a*** and **65*b*** are configured with a keyhole shape and while the other four holes have this same shape in part, these other four holes also include a lateral slot **71** as illustrated in the detail of FIG. **5A**.

It is to be understood that holder **60** is virtually identical to holder **20** as to the general shape and configuration, including the shape of the curved clip **62**. The most significant differences between the two holders include the snap-on legs as a mounting option, side panels **72** and **73** and a series of ridges **74** disposed at the base **75** of the clip where it is joined to and integral with the support panel **61**.

Support panel **61** is generally rectangular and substantially flat and is integrally molded with clip **62** and with tapered and curved side panels **72** and **73**. Stiffening ribs **63** surrounds the three sides of open area **64** and provides strength and rigidity to the support panel **61**. Side panels **72** and **73** each extend from a point slightly below the top edge **78** of panel **61** and flare downwardly and outwardly to a convex outer curved portion that generally coincides with the shape of the lower part of clip **62**. Clip **62** includes a lower curved portion **79** which has a concave inner surface **80** which in combination with the outer or front surface of panel **61** defines a receiving cavity **81**. Extending between inside corner **83** and portion **79** is a substantially flat Portion **79*a***. Extending between inside corner **83** and outer, upper edge **82** is substantially flat lip **86** which includes outer surface **84** and inner surface **85**. The corner or edge opposite to corner **83** provides the pressure point for clip **62**. The outwardly flared nature of lip **86** provides

channel **87** which is the initial point of entry for printed literature which is placed in holder **60**.

FIG. **6** is a perspective view of holder **60** as viewed from the left side and FIG. **7** is a side elevational view taken from the right side. These two views are important in order to adequately and completely illustrate the nature of side panels **72** and **73** and to show the nature and attachment of snap-on legs **66** and **67**. As is intended to be illustrated, legs **66** and **67** each include a pair of aligned buttons **68** with enlarged heads **68***a* which are sized and spaced to fit into holes **65***c*–**65***f*. As is intended to be illustrated and described, the stem of the buttons on legs **66** and **67** are of a smaller size such that the enlarged head of each button must be first placed in the large circular opening **71***a* of each hole and as pushed into position the stem of each button aligns with the lateral slot **71** allowing the stem of the button to be received in the slot and the head of the button extending over and beyond the slot edges so as to function as a locking means. Leg **66** is attached via holes **65***c* and **65***e* and leg **67** is attached by hole **65***d* and **65***f*. Once the buttons are fitted into their respective holes and slide laterally into corresponding slots **71**, the legs are locked to the back surface of support panel **61**.

One function of side panels **72** and **73** is to provide lateral support and control of whatever printed literature may be placed in the holder. These particular side panels are spaced so as to be substantially parallel to each other and are set at a width which is only slightly greater than the width of the printed material which the holder receives. Although larger holders can support any size material which is smaller than the lateral spacing in the side wall, the most attractive appearance and use of holder **60** is to have the width between side panels substantially the same as, though slightly larger, the width of the material received therein. Another function provided by the two side panels is a way to interlock adjacent holders together. The outer surface of side panel **72** includes a recessed area **91** which tapers slightly from the front of the area to the rear. A matching and complementary raised boss **92** is disposed on the outer surface of side panel **73**. The raised boss **92** tapers slightly from the front to the rear and its size and shape match the recessed area **91** such that adjacently disposed holders can be interlocked by locking the raised boss of one holder into the recessed area of the adjacent holder. In order to enhance the interlocking configuration, the recessed area and the raised boss are formed with angled and cut top and bottom edges similar to what would be described as a dovetail fit.

Although the present invention has been generally described as having a selective or predetermined spacing between the side panels, it is anticipated that standard sizes will accommodate most of the printed literature which may be disposed in holders such as this. A full-size holder will typically be used for full-size material such as that material having an approximate 8½ inch width. Since the 8½ inch width generally coincides with regular size letters, stationery and brochures, it is anticipated that this size will accommodate a wide range of publications. For placement of such items as pamphlets and folded brochures in the holder, these particular items are typically half-sized with a width in the range of 4 to 4¼ inches. Consequently, another standard size for holder **60** will be one which has a spacing between side panels **72** and **73** set slightly larger than the 4¼ inch anticipated width. If the full-size and half-size holders are designed with a 2:1 size relationship, then it will be possible to create a mixture of both full size and half-size holders all interlocked together in a wide variety of arrangements, one of which is illustrated in FIG. **8**. The point to be stressed though is that one full size holder can be replaced by two half-sized holders due to their uniformity of a 2:1 size relationship. Consequently, it is important that the recessed area **91** and raised boss **92** of every holder regardless of whether it is full-sized or half-sized be maintained the same so that full-size and half-size holders can interlock with each other.

Also illustrated in FIG. **8** is another feature of the present invention wherein the top edge of the supPort panel is configured with two raised portions **95**. The bottom edge of the support panel includes an aligned pair of recessed portions **96**. This particular pattern allows holders to be aligned with one another in a top-to-bottom stack and although the nature of these raised and recessed portions does not provide the same dovetail interlock as was available with the side panels, it does enable a tight engagement and a self-aligning feature so that a series of holders can be arranged to cover some portion of a wall or door. The interlocking feature of the side panels can also be used when the holders are supported by the legs on a horizontal surface, though in that particular configuration it is not anticipated that the alternating raised and recessed portions along the top and bottom edges will be utilized. The combination of interlocked holders diagrammatically illustrated in FIG. **8** includes two full-size holders **60** which are interlocked side by side and four half-size holders **97** which are interlocked side by side and the two groups are engaged by means of their top and bottom edges. The features of the holders has been eliminated for drawing clarity since the role of FIG. **8** is to show only the edge-to-edge engagements.

In use, the clip **62** puts a slight arch in the printed material which is placed within the holder and this arch serves to support the material and have it remain upright. The arch does not allow the material to slide down and the bottom edge curl upwardly. Another feature which aids in the retention of literature in an upright fashion are the ridges **74** in the base of the clip. The bottom edges of the material which is placed in the holder will contact and abut these ridges and the material is precluded from drooping or curling.

While the invention has been illustrated and described in detail in the drawings and foregoing description, the same is to be considered as illustrative and not restrictive in character, it being understood that only the preferred embodiment has been shown and described and that all changes and modifications that come within the spirit of the invention are desired to be protected.

What is claimed is:

1. A holder for printed material and the like comprises:

a substantially flat support panel;

a curved clip having a lower edge which is integrally joined to said support panel and an upper edge, said clip being curved outwardly and upwardly from said lower edge and extending back toward said support panel as it extends toward said upper edge; and

a pair of side panels which are disposed on opposite sides of said support panel and integrally joined therewith.

2. The holder of claim 1 wherein each of said side panels is substantially flat and tapered from a narrow upper section to a wider lower section.

3. The holder of claim 2 wherein said lower section of each side panel is curved along its outer edge.

4. The holder of claim 1 wherein one side panel includes a recessed channel and the other side panel includes a raised portion which is sized and shaped to be received by the recessed channel of an adjacent holder thereby enabling a side-by-side assembly of a plurality of holders.

5. A holder for printed material and the like comprises:

a substantially flat support panel arranged so as to define a plurality of modified mounting holes which are designed and arranged to position said holder in a desired orientation;

a curved clip having a lower edge which is integrally joined to said support panel and an upper edge, said clip being curved outwardly and upwardly from said lower edge and extending back toward said support panel as it extends toward said upper edge; and

a pair of snap-on legs each of which are suitably configured to attach to one of said plurality of mounting holes.

6. The holder of claim 5 wherein each snap-on leg has a lower support surface and an attachment surface which is arranged relative to said support surface with an acute included angle such that the support panel is inclined relative to whatever surface receives said support surface.

7. A holder for printed material and the like comprises:

a substantially flat support panel having a top edge which includes a series of raised portions and having a lower edge which includes a series of recessed portions wherein one holder is able to interfit with an adjacent holder on either of the top or bottom; and

a curved clip having a lower ed ge which is integrally joined to said support panel and an upper edge, said clip being curved outwardly and upwardly from its lower edge and extending back toward said support panel as it extends toward the upper edge of said clip.

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